

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 21~~method of claim 29 or 38, wherein ~~the said nucleotide sequences code sequence coding for a NS3/NS4 polypeptide of a HCV and a said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS5b polypeptide of a HCV~~originating-originate from viruses of different genotypes.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 21~~method of claim 29 or 38, wherein ~~the said nucleotide sequences code sequence coding for a NS3/NS4 polypeptide of a HCV and a said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS5b polypeptide of a HCV~~originating-originate from a virus of the same genotype.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 21~~method of claim 29 or 38, wherein said expression ~~vector is an adenovirus~~vectors(s) are adenoviruses.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to~~method of claim 24, wherein the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the E1 region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40-NS5b.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 21~~method of claim 29 or 38, wherein said expression ~~vector is a poxvirus~~vectors are poxviruses.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to~~method of claim 26, wherein the genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method for the inhibition or control of an infection caused by hepatitis C virus (HCV) in an animal, wherein said method comprises administering to an animal in need thereof an effective amount of at least one of the following:

(a) (i) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a HCV, and (ii) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; and

(b) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a HCV and (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; wherein: said method does not comprise administering a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5a polypeptide of a HCV

~~(a) the expression vector according to claim 21;~~

~~(b) an expression vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and a vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or~~

~~(c) an expression vector for expression of nucleotide sequences coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.~~

30-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The expression vector according to claim 23~~method of claim 29 or 38, wherein said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a

HCV and said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS5b polypeptide of a HCV
~~originate~~nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a
~~virus~~HCV of genotype 1b.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said animal is a human.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing an immune response in an animal,
~~infected by the hepatitis C virus~~ wherein said method comprises administering to ~~an~~ said
~~animal in need thereof~~ an effective amount of at least one of the following:

(a) (i) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a
HCV, and (ii) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a
HCV; and

(b) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of
a HCV and (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; wherein:

said method does not comprise administering a nucleotide sequence coding for an
NS5a polypeptide of a HCV

~~(a) the expression vector according to claim 21;~~

~~(b) an expression vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the~~
~~polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and an expression vector for expression of a~~
~~nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or~~

~~—— (c) an expression vector for expression of nucleotide sequences coding for the~~
~~polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C~~
~~virus placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or~~
~~inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b~~
~~of the hepatitis C virus.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 38, wherein said immune
response is a cell immune response.

40. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~of claim 38, wherein said animal is a human.

41. (New) The method of claim 29 or claim 38, wherein said HCV coding sequences are operatively linked to one or more regulatory elements sufficient for the expression of said NS3/NS4 polyprotein and said NS5b polypeptide.